

Finding of No Significant Impact

New NDOW Guzzlers in the McCullough Range

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Chapter 1. Finding of No Significant Impact

New Bighorn Sheep Guzzlers in the McCullough Range

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1.1. Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0119-EA

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts (per Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2014-0119-EA), I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required.

1.2. Mitigation Measures:

1. The project will require an authorized desert tortoise biologist, monitor, or other approved by the BLM to present a desert tortoise education program.
2. The project will require an authorized desert tortoise biologist to conduct tortoise clearance surveys prior to construction and be on-call to move any tortoises out of harms way.
3. A tortoise monitor is required to be onsite during the guzzler installation.
4. Vehicle speed on project-related access roads without posted speed limits and in the work area will not exceed 15 mph.
5. Cross-country travel outside designated areas shall be prohibited. All equipment, vehicles, and construction materials shall be restricted to the designated areas.
6. All project/event-related individuals shall check underneath stationary vehicles before moving them. Tortoises often take cover under vehicles. All cars, trucks, and ATVs will be restricted to existing roads. New access roads will be created only when absolutely necessary and only when approved by BLM. Workers shall not drive or park vehicles where catalytic converters can ignite dry vegetation and to exhibit care when smoking in natural areas. Fire protective mats or shields shall be used during grinding or welding.
7. Vehicles and equipment shall be cleaned with a high pressure washer prior to arrival in desert tortoise habitat and prior to departure from areas of known invasive weed and nonnative grass infestations to prevent or at least minimize the introduction or spread these species.
8. Should there be concentrated areas of noxious weeds within the project area, additional spraying of equipment may be required to prevent the contamination of uninfested areas.
9. Cactus and yucca plants will be avoided during construction by shifting placement of each guzzler as necessary.
10. Hazardous and toxic materials such as fuels, solvents, lubricants, and acids used during construction will be controlled to prevent accidental spills. Any leak or accidental release of hazardous and toxic materials will be stopped immediately and cleaned up at the time of occurrence. Contaminated soils will be removed and disposed at an approved landfill site.
11. The proposed action may require importing of mineral materials during construction. If imported mineral materials are federally owned they need to be obtained in accordance with the regulations found at 43 CFR 3600 in the form of a contract or free use permit before they can be imported.

12. Before project construction, it will be determined whether or not the project meets the criteria for a County dust control permit.

1.3. Signatures:

Recommended by: /s/ 1/26/2015

Mathew Hamilton
Wildlife Biologist

[Date]

Approved by: /s/ 1/26/2015

Gayle Marrs-Smith
Field Manager

[Date]

Las Vegas Field Office

Approved by: /s/ 1/26/2015

Mark Spencer
Field Manager

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